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12 July 1963



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

State Department review completed



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DAILY BRIEF

*Ecuador: The 11 July ouster of President Carlos Julio Arosemena by a military junta seems to have been completely spontaneous

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The move was triggered by Arosemena's drunken behavior at a 10 July banquet in honor of Grace Lines President McNeil. In an impromptu speech the Ecuadorean President accused the US Government of exploiting Latin America. When the US Ambassador sought to defend his country, Arosemena left the banquet hall.

Alarmed at this latest outlandish performance, the top military leaders decided to move against Arosemena immediately. They secured the support of the commanders of all important military installations, had the presidential palace surrounded, and three hours later arrested and flew the ex-President to Panama.

While this action was taking place, Vice President Reinaldo Varea Donoso attempted to call a special session of congress to have himself named president "constitutionally." The military leaders, however, rejected Varea because they believe he

was implicated in an arms purchase scandal in 1960 and had him flown to Colombia.

The junta which is made up of all the former service chiefs headed by Navy Captain Ramon Castro will probably be vigorously anti-Communist and attempt to restore constitutional democracy as soon as possible. It claimed in a communiqué that the Apostolic Nuncio and the ambassadors of several countries, including Venezuela, have expressed their sympathy with the military action.

Popular reaction to the coup has thus far been limited to small demonstrations which the junta easily controlled. Extremist elements, however, may attempt to organize more formidable demonstrations in Quito and Guayaquil, and may launch a series of terrorist acts. [REDACTED]

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*Cuba-USSR: Military trucks and vans that may be associated with the surface-to-air (SAM) defense system in Cuba are being shipped back to the Soviet Union.

25X1 [redacted] the Soviet cargo ship Metallurg Anosov left Havana for the USSR with at least 26 canvas-covered van trailers, a number of van trucks, and other unidentified equipment on deck.

25X1 High-altitude photography of the Santiago de las Vegas SAM assembly area south of Havana on [redacted] van trailers similar to those on the Metallurg Anosov. This equipment left Santiago de las Vegas [redacted]

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No reason is known for the withdrawal of these vans at this time. It may be that they are no longer needed in view of the reduction in the number of Soviet military personnel on the island. It is also possible that the vans contain equipment which the Soviets do not intend to transfer to the Cubans.

[redacted]
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***Argentina:** Oscar Alende, who ran second to Arturo Illia in the 7 July presidential election, reportedly intends to give Illia the support he needs to win the electoral college vote on 31 July, and to work for unification of their respective parties.

Alende's private secretary told an embassy officer on 10 July that Alende planned to accomplish such unification by vote at his party's convention scheduled for 26 July. This would enable him to release his electors to Illia and give Illia more than the necessary majority.

Alende reportedly does not plan to accept any government position, but intends instead to devote his efforts to strengthening a unified party in the hope of being its candidate in 1969.

In the election of national deputies, Illia's and Alende's parties made an even stronger showing than in the presidential race, winning 76 and 38 seats, respectively, in the 192-man chamber. The Aramburu and Conservative parties won a total of 39 seats, and the Peronist and neo-Peronist parties won 18. The results of the election have caused deep divisions within the Peronist movement and damaged Peron's personal prestige.

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Greece: (Political repercussions of benefit to former Premier Karamanlis are expected in Greece following the demonstrations in London during the state visit of King Paul and Queen Frederika.)

(Karamanlis resigned in early June when his advice to cancel the royal visit was rejected. He has been proven correct and probably has thereby enhanced his political position. Many other political leaders supported the visit and presumably have suffered a loss in prestige. The King and Queen may have gained some public sympathy for the attacks to which they have been subjected, but they have revealed a lack of political astuteness by insisting on the trip to Britain.)

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(Whether the Greek reaction to the visit will contribute to an early return to power of Karamanlis depends on both the intentions of the former premier and the speed with which national elections are scheduled. The royal family, whose members have become increasingly hostile toward Karamanlis in recent weeks, may attempt to postpone elections in the hope that time will erode Karamanlis' support within his own National Radical Union.)

(Greeks of all nationalist political parties can be expected to react negatively to an attack on the symbol of their country. The betterment of Greek-British relations--the purpose of the visit--will not be achieved.)

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